

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-90 (canceled).

91 (currently amended). A gaming method comprising:

receiving a wager from a player to play a primary game;

displaying an image associated with ~~[[a]]~~ the primary game;

determining an outcome of the primary game;

determining if one qualifying activity associated with the primary game has occurred;

associating at least one entry for a shared bonus event with a gaming entity if the one qualifying activity associated with the primary game has occurred;

~~permitting the player~~ receiving a first input from the player to place the at least one entry with one of a set of entries for a first shared bonus event or a set of entries for a second shared bonus event;

receiving a ~~request~~ second input from the player to initiate a selection of one of the entries from the set of entries for the first shared bonus event if the player placed the at least one entry with the set of entries for the first shared bonus event or to initiate a selection of one of the set of entries for the second shared bonus event if the player placed the at least one entry with the set of entries for the second shared bonus event;

selecting one of the entries from the set of entries for the first shared bonus event;

determining a winner of the first shared bonus event according to the one of the entries selected;

if a ~~request~~ the second input was received from the player to initiate the selection of one of the entries from the set of entries for the first shared bonus event, then awarding a payout to the player if the player is the winner or then canceling ~~the at least one entry~~ all entries associated with just the player from the set of entries for the first shared bonus event if the player is not the winner and, at a later time, selecting another one of the entries from the set of entries for the first shared bonus event, less all entries associated with just the player;

selecting one of the entries from the set of entries for the second shared bonus event;

determining a winner of the second shared bonus event according to the one of the entries selected, and

if a ~~request~~ the second input was received from the player to initiate the selection of one of the entries from the set of entries for the second shared bonus event, then awarding a payout to the player if the player is the winner or then canceling ~~the at least one entry~~ all entries associated with just the player from the set of entries for the second shared bonus event if the player is not the winner and, at a later time, selecting another one of the entries from the set of entries for the second shared bonus event, less all entries associated with just the player.

92 (previously presented). The method according to claim 91, wherein the selection of the one of the entries from the set of entries for the second shared bonus event occurs after the selection of the one of the entries from the set of entries for the first shared bonus event.

Claim 93 (canceled).

94 (previously presented). The method according to claim 91, comprising:
storing the at least one entry in association with the player.

95 (previously presented). The method according to claim 91, comprising:

associating the at least one entry with the gaming entity while the player is at a first gaming machine;

storing the at least one entry in association with the player; and

placing the at least one entry with one of the set of entries for the first shared bonus event and the set of entries for the second shared bonus event while the player is at a second gaming machine.

96 (previously presented). The method according to claim 91, comprising:
placing the at least one entry with the set of entries for the first shared bonus event;
and
removing the at least one entry from the set of entries for the first shared bonus event.

97 (previously presented). The method according to claim 96, comprising:
placing the at least one entry with one of the set of entries for the first shared bonus event and the set of entries for the second shared bonus event at a later time.

98 (previously presented). The method according to claim 97, comprising:
placing the at least one entry with the set of entries for the first shared bonus event while the player is at a first gaming machine;
removing the at least one entry from the set of entries for the first shared bonus event while the player is at the first gaming machine; and
placing the at least one entry with one of the set of entries for the first shared bonus event and the set of entries for the second shared bonus event while the player is at a second gaming machine.

99 (previously presented). The method according to claim 91, comprising:

identifying the player uniquely; and

storing the at least one entry in association with the uniquely identified player.

100 (previously presented). The method according to claim 99, comprising:

storing the at least one entry in association with the uniquely identified player in a centralized location.

101 (previously presented). The method according to claim 91, comprising:

depositing a portion of the wager into a prize pool to be provided to the winner of one of the first shared bonus event and the second shared bonus event.

102 (previously presented). The method according to claim 101, comprising:

receiving another wager from the player; and

depositing a portion of the another wager into the prize pool to be provided to the winner of one of the first shared bonus event and the second shared bonus event.

103 (previously presented). The method according to claim 101, comprising:

receiving wagers from other players; and

depositing a portion of the wagers received from other players into the prize pool to be provided to the winner of one of the first shared bonus event and the second shared bonus event.

104 (currently amended). The method according to claim 91, comprising:

determining if another qualifying activity associated with the primary game has occurred;

associating at least one additional entry for the shared bonus event with the gaming entity if the another qualifying activity associated with the primary game has occurred; and

~~permitting the player~~ receiving another input from the player to place the at least one additional entry with one of the set of entries for the first shared bonus event and the set of entries for the second shared bonus event.

105 (currently amended). The method according to claim 104, comprising:

repeating the steps of determining if another qualifying activity associated with the primary game has occurred, associating at least one additional entry, and ~~permitting the player~~ receiving another input from the player to place the at least one additional entry so long as the player is playing the primary game.

106 (previously presented). The method according to claim 91, comprising:

associating a plurality of entries for the shared bonus event with the gaming entity if the one qualifying activity associated with the primary game has occurred, the plurality of entries associated being proportional to the wager received.

107 (previously presented). The method according to claim 91, comprising:

associating a plurality of entries for the shared bonus event with the gaming entity if the one qualifying activity associated with the primary game has occurred, the plurality of entries associated being disproportionate to the wager received.

108 (previously presented). The method according to claim 91, comprising:

determining if qualifying activities associated with primary games played by other players have occurred;

associating entries for the shared bonus event with other gaming entities if the qualifying activities associated with the primary games played by other players have occurred;

placing a portion of the entries associated with other gaming entities with the set of entries for the first shared bonus event; and

placing a portion of the entries associated with other gaming entities with the set of entries for the second shared bonus event.

109 (previously presented). The method according to claim 91, wherein the gaming entity comprises the player.

110 (previously presented). The method according to claim 91, wherein the gaming entity comprises a gaming machine.

111 (previously presented). The method according to claim 91, wherein the one qualifying activity comprises one of a predetermined time, a passage of a fixed time interval, a particular game outcome, a placement of a selected number of wagers, and a placement of the wager of a certain amount.

112 (previously presented). The method according to claim 91, comprising:
determining if a first shared bonus event trigger has occurred;
selecting one of the entries from the set of entries for the first shared bonus event if the first shared bonus event trigger has occurred;
determining if a second shared bonus event trigger has occurred; and
selecting one of the entries from the set of entries for the second shared bonus event if the second shared bonus event trigger has occurred.

113 (previously presented). The method according to claim 112, wherein the first shared bonus event trigger is different than the second shared bonus event trigger.

114 (previously presented). The method according to claim 112, wherein the first and second shared bonus triggers comprise at least one of a predetermined time, a passage of a fixed time interval, a particular game outcome, a number of times a game is played, a placement of a certain wager, and a prize pool reaching a certain value.

Claims 115 and 116 (cancelled).

117 (previously presented). The method according to claim 91, comprising:
providing a prize to the winner of at least one of the first and second shared bonus events at a gaming machine.

118 (previously presented). The method according to claim 117, comprising:
providing a credit amount to the winner of the at least one of the first and second shared bonus events at the gaming machine.

119 (previously presented). The method according to claim 117, comprising:
providing one of a token and a ticket to the winner of the at least one of the first and second shared bonus event at the gaming machine, the one of the token and the ticket being associated with a value prize.

120 (previously presented). The method according to claim 91, comprising:
associating a value prize with one of a player tracking account and a player tracking card of the winner of at least one of the first and second shared bonus events at a gaming machine.

121 (previously presented). The method according to claim 91, wherein the primary game is at least one of a reel-type game, a card game, a bingo game, a keno game, a raffle game and a lottery game.

122 (previously presented). The method according to claim 121, wherein the primary game is a slots game.